

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—Madam Speaker, there is no point in criticising the Governor. I request the hon. Member not to cast any aspersion on the Governor.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರವರ ಕಾಂಡಕ್ಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಬಾರದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೋಣಂದೂರು ಲಂಗಪ್ಪ.—ಇವೊತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ರ್ಯಾಡ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇದೆಯೇ ಎನ್ನುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ರಾಜ್ಯವಾತು ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಈ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ವಿರೋಧಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ, ಇಷ್ಟು ಕಾಲ ಮಾತನಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಿಗೆ ವಂದಿನಿ ನನ್ನ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಂಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

MADAM SPEAKER—The discussion is concluded. Tomorrow there will be reply.

Now the Hon. Minister for Food and Forests will make a statement.

Statement by the Minister for Food and Forests :

re : *Transfer of euclyptus plantation to Harihar Polyfibres.*

SRI K. H. PATIL (Minister for Food and Forest).—The General Secretary of the Janata Party Shri Ramakrishna Hegde had a News Conference yesterday expressed that the Chief Minister Shri Devaraj Urs was responsible for a scandalous deal with the Birlas. Shri Hegde had said that vast areas of eucalyptus plantations reserved for Mysore Paper Mills have been transferred to Harihar Polyfibres. These are wild accusations in which neither the facts are brought out nor the full picture furnished. I would like to clarify the position as follows :—

The plantations of Eucalyptus raised upto 1968 stand committed to M/s. Harihar Polyfibres. The various paper and Rayon pulp industries in the State have been putting forth claims for the allocation of plantations raised thereafter. This subject was reviewed by the Government and during July, 1976, orders were issued allocating these plantation areas in the following manner :

1. Mysore Paper Mills	...	Plantations yielding 70,000 tonnes per annum
2. Hindustan Paper Corporation (Mandya National Paper Mills)	...	Plantation yielding 40,000 tonnes per annum
3. West Coast Paper Mills, Dandeli	...	40,000 tonnes per annum
4. Shri Indrasen Mittal (Proposed factory at Nanjangud)	...	16,000 tonnes per annum

The balance quantity unallotted *viz.*, 15,000 tonnes per annum was held in reserve. The allocation were based on the indicated expansion programmes. The question of fixation of rates was under consideration and as such the formal agreements were not executed.

As the proposal to set up the factory at Nanjangud by Shri Indrasen Mittal did not materialise, we indicated to Mysore Paper Mills that the 16,000 tonnes allocated in favour of Shri Indrasen Mittal would be diverted to Mysore Paper Mills.

The allocation ordered in favour of West Coast Paper Mills was on the basis of their earlier indication that they were taking up expansion of their factory from 60,000 to 90,000 tonnes per annum. In a meeting had with the Officials of the Industries Department, Government of India, the State Government was given to understand that this proposed expansion would not take place. As we had already concerned to the West Coast Paper Mills areas with a potential to yield 1.74 lakh tonnes as against the actual requirement of 1.50 lakh tonnes Government considered it desirable to revoke the allocation earlier ordered in its favour.

M/s Harihar Polyfibers had been coming up to the Government expressing that while their agreement provided for exploitation of the 1.50 lakh tonnes per annum between 1971 and 1973 and thereafter extraction of any quantity in excess of the said limit, the areas concerned in their favour was producing not more than 2 lakh tonnes. As they had already initiated their further expansion programme they were in dire need of raw-material to meet the shortages. Further the earlier agreement entered into by them in 1971 provided that if the Eucalyptus is not available in the extraction areas, Government shall make available the same by allocating additional areas including new plantations, subject to availability.

In the case of Mysore Paper Mills, the requirement was for meeting their expansion programme and not the immediate needs. Taking all these factors into consideration Government reviewed the subject and issued revised orders allocating Eucalyptus raw-material from the plantations raised after 1940 as follows. This order was issued on 23rd April, 1977.

1	Mysore Paper Mills	...	60,000 tonnes per annum
2	Hindustan Paper Corporation	...	35,000 tonnes per annum
3.	Harihar Polyfibers	...	65,000 tonnes per annum
4	holding in reserve areas expected to yield	...	21,000 tonnes per annum

A decision was simultaneously taken that the requirement of 88,000 tonnes per annum in the case of Mysore Paper Mills would be made up either from the reserves or by allocating junglegrounds. The rate uniformly charged was fixed at Rs. 65 per tonne. The commitment made by Mysore Paper Mills with I.D.B.I viz., the financing institution was that Eucalyptus plantation expected to yield 88,000 tonnes would be allocated in its favour by the Government.

Thus inspite of my having taken a decision that a total quantity of 88,000 tonnes of Cellulosic raw-material consisting of Eucalyptus and other Junglegrounds be committed in favour of Mysore Paper Mills, Chief Minister on reviewing the subject, felt that the specific commitment to be ordered by the Government in favour of Mysore Paper Mills may be 88,000 tonnes of Eucalyptus itself. Chief Minister hence minuted on 15-6-1977 that this entire subject would have to be re-examined and steps also be taken to cancel the agreement entered into with M/s Harihar Polyfibers.

It will therefore be seen that both the Chief Minister and I have been keen to meet the full requirement of the Mysore Paper Mills for its expansion programme, even at the cost of Harihar Polyfibers which would not have been the case if the Government wanted to favour the Birlas.

I may also express here with some surprise, that in 1969, the then Government headed by Sri Virendra Patil, allocated the entire Eucalyptus plantations raised in the State to Harihar Polyfibers, without making any reserves for any other industries at a price well below the cost of production. During 1969 the cost of production of Eucalyptus was estimated by the Department to be Rs. 40.68 per tonne. The Controller of State Accounts who went into the details of costing arrived at a rate of Rs. 43.16 per tonne with the normal margin of profit.

The records reveal that the Finance Department, when Sri Hegde was the Finance Minister had agreed to the rate of Rs. 24 per tonne. This is against the rate of Rs. 65 per tonne prescribed in the Government Order of April, 1977. Further the agreement entered into on 15-2-1971 was for a period of 30 years as against which the order of April, 1977 covers only a period of 5 years.

According to the 1971 Government order the rates were limited to Rs. 24 per tonne during the first 15 years the rate of Rs. 30 per tonne during the next 10 years and Rs. 36 per tonne during the last 5 years. It may be seen that no provision for reviewing or revising the rates was made in the Government order. As against this, inspite of the

present order covering a period of five years, it has been spelled out that if agreement is to be extended both the rate and the quantity can be reviewed by the Government once in five years.

I hope I have made it clear to the House that there has been no deal of any kind and the interest of the State has been fully protected leaving nothing for the Members for any conjecture.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಡಿ. ದೇವೇಗೌಡ — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರನ್ನು ನಾನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಕ್ಲಾರಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್ ಕೇಳಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹಿಂದೆ 1969ರಲ್ಲಿ 24 ರೂಪಾಯಿಯಂತೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದಿರಿ. ಕಾನ್ಸ್ಟ್ ಅಫ್ ಪ್ರೊಡಕ್ಷನ್ 40.68 ಪ್ರೈಸೆ. ನೀವು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅಂಕಿಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 33.16 ಪ್ರೈಸೆ ಪರ್ ಟನ್. Will you kindly give us the recommendation made by the officials then? What was the actual rate fixed? It is contrary to the advice given by the officials?

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ.—ಈಗ 65 ರೂಪಾಯಿಯಂತೆ ರೇಟ್ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೀರಿ. ಇದು does it apply to the whole quantity or to the additional quantity?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್.— ಒಂದು ಟನ್‌ಗೆ 65 ರೂಪಾಯಿಯಂತೆ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ತಾವು ಇದನ್ನು ಯಾವ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದೀರಿ? ಇದನ್ನು ಕಾನ್ಸ್ಟ್ ಅಫ್ ಪ್ರೊಡಕ್ಷನ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಾಕಿರುವುದಾದರೆ ಇದು ವೊದಲು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಅಥವಾ ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತೀರಾ? ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಇದು ಬಹಳ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ವಿಷಯ. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆಯವರ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನೂ ರೆಫರ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಿದೆ ಎಂದರೆ:

“Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde has stated that it was well known that the Chief Minister requires money to maintain majority support in the party and keep himself in power; he has even openly admitted that corruption has become a way of life”

ಇನ್ನು ಕಾಳಿ ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟ್ ಪವರ್‌ನ್ನು ಗೋದಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೂಡ ತಮ್ಮ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸದನಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. We expected some statement about it.

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸ್.—ಆ ವಿಷಯ ಬಂದಾಗ ಮಾತನಾಡೋಣ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಹೆಚ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ್.—ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ರೆಕಮೆಂಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ರೇಟ್ 65 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವು ದಿವಸದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಅಂದರೆ 1976ನೇ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಡಿಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನವರು ಇದನ್ನು 51 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಬಹುದೆಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿದ್ದರು. ಇಡೀ ಹಿಂದೂಸ್ತಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಯಾವ ರೇಟ್‌ಗೆ ಈ ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ನೋಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ 1969ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆಯವರು ಇದ್ದಾಗ ಯಾವ ರೇಟ್‌ಗೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದು ನಮಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಬಂದಮೇಲೆ ಇದನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಿ

ದ್ದೇವೆ. ಮೊದಲು 40 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಇದ್ದುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಬರುತ್ತದೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ರೆಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕಿ 43 point something ರೂಪಾಯಿನಂತೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಈ ಎರಡನ್ನೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಎದುರುಗಡೆ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಇಡೀ ಹಿಂದೂಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲ ಯಾವ ಯಾವ ರೇಟ್‌ಗೆ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ Karnataka Stands second in India.

SRI C. BYREGOWDA.—Is it for the additional quantity ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಎಚ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ್.—ಇದು ಅವರೇ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಅವರೇ ಬಂದು ಇದನ್ನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಆಗ ಇದನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರ ಕಾನೂನು ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಏನೂ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

MADAM SPEAKER.—The House stands adjourned to meet again to-morrow at 9-30 A.M.

*The House adjourned at Seventeen Minutes past Seven of the Clock to meet again at Thirty Minutes past Nine of the Clock on Wednesday, the 6th July 1977.*